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MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

NO. 240
WEEK ENDING
SEPT. 14, 1977

SUPER SPIDER-MAN AND CAPTAIN BRITAIN

10P

YOU'RE
TOO LATE,
SPIDER-MAN!

THAT'S WHAT
YOU THINK!

HURRY,
SPIDER-MAN!
I'M SLIPPING!



While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the insect's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

ENTER: THE HITMAN!

THE VULTURE IS BACK --
DEADLIER THAN EVER! AND
GUESS WHO HE'S OUT TO
GET? -- HE YOU SAID ANYONE
BUT OL' SPIDERMAN, GO
TO THE BACK OF THE CLASS!

MIYA, VULTCHY,
WHERE YA BEEN
KEEPING YOUR
SELF?

ARCHIE GOODWIN
WRITER / EDITOR
SAL BUSCEMA
PENCILLER
MIKE ESPOSITO
INKER
KAREN MANTLO
LETTERER



AND FOR THE VULTURE,
THERE IS ONLY THE HUNT.

FORGOTTEN IS
THE TOWER...
AND THOSE
LEFT UPON IT.



WHICH IS PRETTY
MUCH HOW SPIDEY
PLANNED IT!

TIME
FOR
PHASE
TWO...



GETTING HIM WHERE
THOSE WINGS ARE NO
ADVANTAGE!

LIKE THE
FURNITURE-
CROWDED
INTERIOR--



--OF AN OFFICE
BUILDING! BY NOW,
EVERYONE SHOULD
BE OUT TO LUNCH,
SO--



AW, NO! IT'S
BARE AS A CAVE
IN HERE!

IT'S ONE OF
THESE PLACES
WHERE THEY
RAN OUT OF
CONSTRUCTION
MONEY BEFORE
IT COULD BE
FINISHED.

YOU PICK
THIS AS YOUR
BATTLEFIELD?

IT SHALL NOT
HINDER THE
VULTURE!

I MAY BE
THE FIRST
SUPER-HERO
DONE IN BY THE
RECESSION!

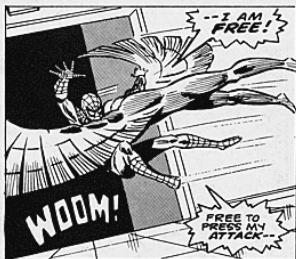


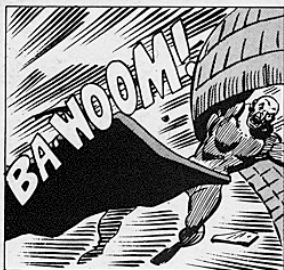
REALLY...?

WELL,
LET'S SEE IF
SOMETHING
ELSE WILL...



LIKE A NET OF
WEBBING STRUNG
ACROSS THAT SPOT
YOU'RE SO KEEN
ON ZOOMING
THROUGH!





GRENADE SMOKE CLEARS, THE CORDITE STENCH FADES, AND TWO GROGGY FIGURES BEHOLD...

... **THE
HITMAN!**

YOU CAN FORGET
YOUR PRIDE OR
YOUR REPUTATION,
VULTURE.

YOU CAN
FORGET YOUR
REVENGE.

THEY'RE
ALL THINGS
YOU'RE NEVER
GOING TO
HAVE.

I'VE TAKEN
A CONTRACT
TO MAKE CERTAIN
OF THAT--

-- BY KILLING
SPIDER-MAN
MYSELF!

**NEXT
ISSUE:**

SPIDER-KILL!



incredible items of inconsequence & intermittent interest!

ITEM! The bombastic weekly block-busters from mighty Marvel are burstin' with a bloomin' blitzkrieg of brain-

bustin' but brassy and brash battles, so without any further ado, let's leap right into the midst of the mildly Marvelous forthcoming milestones!

ITEM! We positively must make magnificent mention of **MIGHTY WORLD OF MARVEL** No. 259, which boasts the biggest and best blamed line-up of all-star super-heroes next to **SUPER SPIDEY!** First off, the hostile Hulk's one-monster mash-up of the dynamic Defenders comes to a close as old Greenie discovers that Doc Strange can't save his cold, stiff sweetie, Jarella, which adds much to the melancholy man-brute's burgeoning blues. Meanwhile, the Machiavellian Captain Marvel stirs up some stardust astride a mechanical mule, galloping across the cosmos (or trotting anyway)! The story's called "Shoot Out at the O.K. Space Station", and it's strictly superlative stuff! As for Daredevil, the Man Without Fear, he's the totally unsuspecting target of the ornery Ox—that big dumb galoot who's back (but not by popular demand, according to DDI!

More action per moment than ever before from mighty Marvel! Finally, the stogie-suckin' Sgt. Fury and his slap-happy Howlin' Commandos come up against Baron Strucker's block-bustin' Blitzkrieg Squad! Yep, the blamed baddy has assembled an elite group of German fighters, each especially equipped to battle an individual Howler! So remember, madcap mavens, to always accost your local newsagent with the strident shout of "Make Mine Marvel!" in particular, **MIGHTY WORLD OF MARVEL** 259!

ITEM! When are we gonna get round to telling y'all about the ginchy new titles we'll be sending your way this astounding autumn? Well, how 'bout now? F.F. fans hang on to your hats 'cos a new Fantastic Four Weekly will be lurching into your local newsagents any week now. Yup, Bashful Benji, Sue 'n Read, and the fiery ol' Torch, will be starring in their own magnificent mag. Get it when you see it, and you'll see it pretty soon! More news about more brand new Marvel goodies in upcoming weeks, so watch this space for details.

ALL THE EXCITEMENT AND DRAMA of these CLASSIC TALES...

*RETOLD IN THE
MIGHTY MARVEL
MANNER!*

ON SALE MID-SEPTEMBER



WHEN PHYSICS STUDENT BRIAN BRADDOCK RUBS HIS MYSTIC AMULET, HE TRANSFORMS INTO BRITAIN'S SUPER-HEROIC CHAMPION OF JUSTICE...

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

CAPTAIN BRITAIN!



GRIPPED BY STEEL TENTACLES CAPTAIN BRITAIN STRUGGLES UPRIGHT TO FACE THE BULL-LIKE CHARGE OF DR. CLAW'S GIANT HENCHMAN -- FONG!

COME ON-- DO YOUR WORST-- YOU GUTLESS YOB!

NO! KNOCK IT OFF! YOU CAN'T HIT A BLOKE WIV HIS ARMS PINIONED!

YOU THINK NOT?

OUT OF MY WAY, ENGLISH SCUM!

BRAVE TRY, BULLARD-- THANKS!

THUD!

SILENCE, DOG!

YOU WILL SPEAK ONLY WHEN THE MASTER COMMANDS!

AND SOON, ON THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND WHERE THEY'VE BEEN LURED, FIVE HAPLESS BRITISH TOURISTS WILL LEARN...

TO
SHRINK
IN
FEAR!

EXCELLENT, FONG! CAPTAIN BRITAIN HAS BEEN TAUGHT HIS FIRST PAINFUL LESSON HERE ON EDEN ISLAND!

NOW TAKE OUR ENGLISH GUESTS INTO MY LAB!

PLOT BY
J. LAWRENCE &
L. LIEBER
SCRIPT BY
JIM LAWRENCE
ART BY
PABLO MARCOS
STUDIO
EDITED BY
LARRY LIEBER



PLACE THEM IN THE DWARF-RAY CYLINDERS!

AT ONCE, MASTER!



WOT THE FLAMIN' HELL'RE YOU TRYIN' T' PULL ON US!

P-PLEASE-- I'VE A FILM CAREER TO THINK OF!

AS FONG DUMPS THE STILL-DAZED SUPER-HERO INTO THE RADIATION CELL--THE OTHER "GUESTS" PROTEST THEIR OMINOUS FATE!

SILENCE! ENTER THOSE CYLINDERS--OR I'LL HAVE FONG FLUNG YOU INTO THEM!



THE SWINE IS HOLDING ALL THE CARDS! WE'D BEST DO AS HE SAYS!

BAH! IF I HAD A FEW OF ME MOB HEAVIES, I'D TEACH THE BORK!



NOW YOU'LL BE PRIVILEGED TO WITNESS KNOWLEDGE--

--FAR BEYOND THE REACH OF YOUR SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY!

AND AS DR. CLAW PRESSES A BUTTON ON HIS WHEELCHAIR...



...THE CYLINDERS LIGHT UP WITH A SIZZLING, SCINTILLATING GLARE OF CRACKLING IRRIDESCENCE!

KRRRAK!



FIZZT!

BLIPP!

KRRAK!

HSSHH!

BGLPPP!

WHA-WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

I CAN'T SEE! THE GLARE'S BLINDING ME!

WE'RE SHRINKING! WE'RE GETTING SMALLER AND SMALLER!

NO-O-O! IT CAN'T BE! IT CAN'T!

I'M BECOMIN' A MIDGET!!

THE RADIATION FADES FROM THE CYLINDER, AS POWER IS SWITCHED OFF!

THE MASTER SAYS YOU MAY COME OUT NOW!

OH, NO! A CAT! AND IT'S SPOTTED US!

STEADY ON, LUV!

I GO NOW!

HES ALL HEART!

TELL HIM HE'LL PAY FOR THIS! SO HELP ME!

THE MONSTER-- HE'S MADE US AS FREAKISH AS HE IS!

THE CAT-- IT'S ATTACKING!

GET BACK!

LET ME COPE WITH THIS!

BUT ARTIE ZAMPA MOVES TOO SLOWLY!

--AND ALMOST LOSES HALF HIS FACE!

HERE, KITTY!

OVER THIS WAY, PUSS!

IT'S WORKING! I'M DRAWING THE CAT'S ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE OTHERS!

CAN'T DO MUCH MORE THAN ANNOY OLD PUSS!

THAK!

--BUT AT LEAST IT'LL GIVE THE REST OF YOU TIME TO TAKE COVER!

WHERE THE HELL CAN WE HIDE?!

ANYWHERE! THAT RAT HOLE ACROSS THE LAB!

W-WHAT IF THERE'S A RAT IN THERE?!

WE'LL FACE THAT NIGHTMARE WHEN WE COME TO IT!

MOVE!











EMERGING HEROES

Dear Larry, Neil, et al,

Just as Captain Britain had settled in as an excellent mag, Marvel goes and messes things up by combining C.B. with Super Spider-Man. Why give Spider-Man top billing? C.B. is Britain's own super-hero and these weeklies are printed in Britain. More relevant, C.B. is new material, unlike the Spider-Man reprints. What a shame to destroy a new mag for an up and coming project. Surely the Captain should have stayed and one of the older mags could have gone. As a last point, I hope this doesn't mean the last of Jim Steranko's superb work on Nick Fury.

Enough of the moaning and onto more cheerful items. Captain Britain is now going through its best phase. The Wilson-Marcos art is the best yet, even better than Big John Buscema's work. Budiansky's plotting is also like a breath of fresh air after the dreary Red Skull and Lord Hawk sagas. At last some real opposition to the Captain with the Highwayman and the Enforcer.

Excelsior!

Glenn Jones,
26, Whitley Road,
Thornaby,
Cleveland.

We hate to have to close down mags as much as you hate to see them folding, Glenn. Captain Britain wasn't merged with Spidey to make way for new projects, but simply because of bad sales (and that's the only reason any magazine, anywhere, closes down). But we're glad that you liked the Captain Britain Jubilee epic. Together or apart, Wilson and Marcos produce some ace art!

BACK TO THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Dear Stan,

I think the new format of Super Spider-Man is great. It makes the artwork much less cramped, and this gives it more impact.

Also, I'm glad Sal Buscema is on the art chores. I've admired his work ever since he was only inking his big brother's art. But what's this! Now that you've merged Captain Britain and Super Spider-Man you've only got two mags on the market, whereas back in the good old days you

used to have SIX. So, come on, surely you can find enough time to bring out another mag or two. How about it, huh?

Stuart Lucas,
34, Lonsdale Close,
Ipswich,
Suffolk.

By now you've probably realised, Stuart, that Mighty Marvel is bouncing back in a big way this autumn. Our new Fantastic Four Weekly goes on sale any day now, and it's to be followed by a few other new goodies, the like of which you ain't never seen before! Start saving up your pennies, Pilgrim, cos you're gonna be needing 'em!

THE MEANING IS THE MEDIUM

Dear Bullpen,

At last! Someone has had the nerve to write down what they truly think. I am, of course, referring to Glen Dakin and Steve Way. Their letter, which appeared in Super Spider-Man, issue 230, was, to say the least, very interesting—but also very correct.

Marvel has, as Glenn and Steve stated, "slumped from its position of innovation, high standards, and tasteful entertainment to a large scale organisation producing a lot of bad stuff". It cannot be denied that Marvel has not kept the same consistency and entertainment of earlier years' work.

I began reading American Marvel Comics in 1968, and continued to read them until 1971. During that period of time, I think Marvel reached its peak in super-hero comics. How could they go wrong? Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, and Joe Sinnott were producing "The World's greatest comic magazine". Gene Colan made Captain America, Daredevil, and Dr. Strange some of the best-drawn comics around. Neal Adams drew the Avengers, Thor, and the X-Men to perfection, and Johnny Romita and Gil Kane made Peter Parker step into reality. (Not to mention Roy Thomas, Gerry Conway, John Buscema, Jim Steranko, Vince Colletta, Frank Giacoia, and Tom Palmer). However, then there was a four-year lapse in my collection

before I once again discovered the comics that had given me so much pleasure and entertainment earlier in life. But things had changed. Several "things" were new. Notably comic titles, editors, writers, artists, inkers, letterers, and colourists (who hadn't even been mentioned in the credits in 1971). Moreover, the stories had changed. There was a great deal more commercialization, and the stories were far too complicated, but, most important of all, gone was the characterization of the super-hero's alter ego, which had previously made Marvel the best comics company.

Earlier in 1970, Stan Lee, Roy Thomas, and Gerry Conway were the three main writers. Their policy was to have a story which was not only entertaining, but one which would also hold a meaning (eg. Spider-Man, issue 96-98) and at the same time give the main characters everyday problems as in real life. This is what Marvel Comics are all about! I hope you understand what I am getting at. Nowadays, it is 90% action and 10% characterization, instead of a more balanced story.

I won't continue to bore you with the old Marvel, as you have to look forward into the future, but as a certain Donald J. McGregor said in Spider-Man, issue 77 (1969), "Peter Parker walks on through the rain, subtly changing, catching colds, seeking for social acceptance and meaning to his life". Make Mine Marvel.

Neil Marshall,
3, Hylton Terrace,
Silloth,
Carlisle CA5 4D2

And that's a very eloquent and personal view of Marvel that's bound to incite many Marvelites who actually approve of the various directions Marvel has been moving in recently. You have a perfect right to your opinions, Neil, you express them well, and so we're happy to print 'em. 'Nuff said?



SUPER SPIDEY MAIL
MARVEL COMICS, TUBS HILL HOUSE,
SEVENOAKS, KENT

A brilliant scientist—his best friend—the woman he loves—and her fiery-tempered kid brother! Together, they braved the unknown terrors of outer space, and were changed by cosmic rays into something more than merely human!
MR. FANTASTIC! THE THING! THE INVISIBLE GIRL! THE HUMAN TORCH! Now they are the FANTASTIC FOUR— and the world will never be the same again!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE **FANTASTIC FOUR!**™

REVOLT IN PARADISE!

A MERE MOMENT AGO—
OR, SEVERAL WEEKS
BACK, DEPENDING UPON
WHETHER YOU GO BY
MARVEL TIME OR
CENTRAL STANDARD—

— A BLAZING-HOT
JOHNNY STORM
CHARCOAL-BROILED
HIS WAY THROUGH
A HALF-FOOT
THICKNESS OF
SOLID METAL—

-- ONLY TO BECOME
A VERY CONFUSED
YOUNG FIREBRAND,
INDEED--!

Featuring
(FOR A CHANGE)
THE FIERY-TEMPERED
**HUMAN
TORCH**

OH NO!!
I TRAVELLED
HALFWAY AROUND
THE WORLD--
NEARLY GOT
MYSELF
PERMANENTLY
ZAPPED--

-- JUST
TO SEE--
THIS?!

YOU'RE A WEE BIT
LUCKYER, MARVEL-BOOSTER!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS RELAX,
AND LET--

ROY THOMAS, WRITER/EDITOR,
ROSS ANDRU, GUEST ARTIST,
JOE SINNOTT, INKER,
JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER.

-- FERRY YOU ALONG,
STARTING NOW--!





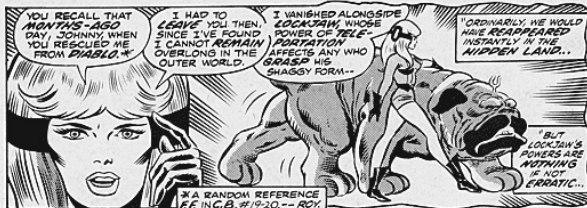
THIS IS STRICTLY BETWEEN CRY'S AND...

-- ME.



A SUDDEN SILENCE HOVERS NEWBORN IN THE AIR. THEN...







"THE MUTANT AVENGER'S TRICK HAD **SUCCEEDED!** THE ANDROID'S FAR-**GREATER MASS** RESULTED IN ITS TOTAL **DESTRUCTION** AS A SENTIENT, FIGHTING ENTITY..."



"SINCE THAT TIME, I'VE LEARNED THAT YOUNG TRASK **DIED**, HELPING THE MIGHTY AVENGERS DEFEAT THE SINISTER SENTINELS..."

"BUT, JUST THEN --

...BONES BROKEN... MUST BE DYING... I..."

WHAT'S-- THAT GLOW--??

SOMETHING-- **APPEARING** IN FRONT OF ME--

--SOMETHING **HUGE-- HORRIBLE--!**

I WON'T COMMENT UPON YOUR LACK OF CHIVALRY, FELLOW.

IT'S TOO APPARENT YOU STAND IN NEED OF **HELP...**

...HELP WHICH I AM HERE TO--

OWN! HE'S **FAINTED!**

LOCKJAW-- THIS TIME, YOU **MUST** GET ME TO THE REFUGE--

--WITHOUT FAIL!

"LUCKILY, THIS TIME MY PET DID **NOT** FAIL-- AND, SOON..."

WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN, CRYSTAL.

COME! THE NEXT FEW **HOURS** WILL TELL THE TALE.

NO, I **MUST** BE HERE IF HE WAKES.

I FEEL... **RESPONSIBLE**, SOMEHOW...

RESPONSIBLE? I **STRONGLY SUSPECT** DEAR COUSIN...

...THAT YOU FEEL **RATHER MORE** THAN THAT...

PERHAPS MORE THAN YOU CAN **KNOW...** FOR NOW...











**COMING
SOON!**

**A BRAND NEW MAG. FROM
MIGHTY MARVEL
STARRING
THE FABULOUS
FANTASTIC FOUR!**

**HANG ON IN THERE
HEROES, 'COS
THE ACTION'S
STARTING
SOON!**

And there came a day when *Earth's mightiest heroes* found themselves united against a common threat. On that day, the *Avengers* were born—to fight the foes no single super-hero could withstand!

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!**

STEVE ENGLEHART | BOB BROWN | DON HECK | ARTIE SIMEX, LETTERER | ROY THOMAS
AUTHOR ARTIST INKER EDITOR



IT BEGINS HERE, IN THE VISITORS ROOM OF THE NEW YORK CRIMINAL DETENTION CENTRE...

HAVE A SEAT, SIR. HE'LL BE RIGHT OUT.

THE LIGHTS ARE LOW HERE, TO MASK THE SHAME, THE NERVOUSNESS, THAT ALSO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS.

FIVE MINUTES, BUDDY. DON'T MAKE ME COME GET YOU.
YEAH, YEAH.

AND WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU, MISTER?

OH, YOU KNOW ME, THOUGH OUR MEETINGS HAVE BEEN UNDER... **ALTERED CIRCUMSTANCES...**

...JOSHUA LINK!

ALTERED CIRCUMSTANCES...? JUST WHAT ARE YOU--?

YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, LINK!

PERHAPS THIS CARD WILL CONVINCE YOU THAT YOU DO.

UH...THAT'S JUST SOME SIGN OF THE ZODIAC... I THINK.

DON'T RUN YOUR BLUFF TOO LONG, LINK! IT COULD BE FATAL!

THIS IS YOUR SIGN-- THE SIGN OF--

--GEMINI!

THERE IS A PAUSE... HUSHED, DEADLY, THEN--

ALL RIGHT! I'M GEMINI!

WHAT'S IT TO YOU?

I AM TAURUS. AS I SAID, WE'VE MET ONLY IN COSTUME BEFORE.

OUR CARTEL, ZODIAC, HAS ALLOWED YOU TO SUFFER THE INDIGNITIES OF IMPRISONMENT AS OUR PUNISHMENT FOR BEING FOOL ENOUGH TO GET CAUGHT SO MANY MONTHS AGO.

BUT NOW ZODIAC IS PREPARED TO RESUME ITS ACTIVITIES, AND I, AS THE NEW LEADER, DESIRE ALL TWELVE HOUSES TO BE FILLED.

BESIDES, OUR NEW ACTIVITIES AFFECT YOU PERSONALLY, LINK. AT MIDNIGHT TONIGHT, EVERY PERSON IN NEW YORK WHO WAS BORN UNDER THE SIGN OF GEMINI--

--WILL DIE!



NOW,
DON'T BE
ALARMED.
WE PLAN
TO FREE
YOU AND
PROTECT
YOU--

COOL IT A
MINUTE!
YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND!

I'VE--NEVER TOLD
ANYONE THIS
BEFORE, BUT--



"--WELL, MY TWIN BROTHER DAMIAN IS A COP--AND ONE NIGHT, BEFORE I JOINED ZODIAC, HE WAS BUSTIN' ME--

"--TILL
MY PARTNER
GOT THE DROP ON
'IM, BUT ACCIDENTALLY
PUSHED US BOTH--

"--INTO AN EXPERIMENTAL ELECTRON CHAMBER
OF SOME SORT."



"IN OUR AGONY,
WE CLUTCHED
HANDS--AND
SOMETHING
HAPPENED!"

"WE DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT
THEN, THOUGH. BY THE TIME MY BUDDIES
SHUT OFF THOSE RAYS AND PULLED ME
OUT, MY HAIR WAS WHITE, I WAS OUT
COLD--AND THEY THOUGHT DAMIAN WAS
DEAD!"



"THING WAS, BOTH OF US SURVIVED--AND
LATER, I DISCOVERED THAT OUR...SPIRITS...
WERE NOW ONE!"



"HE DOESN'T KNOW
IT, BUT I CAN TAKE
OVER HIS MIND,
HIS BODY!"

"WE'VE
LINKED,
MISTER--
JUST LIKE
OUR NAME!"

NOW, DAMIAN
AND I WERE
BORN UNDER
GEMINI--

--AND IF ZODIAC
GOT SOME WAY OF
KILLING GEMINIS,
AND GETS HIM--



--I'LL
DIE,
TOO!"

I SEE, A RATHER
BIZARRE TALE--BUT NOW
I COMPREHEND WHY YOU
WORKED SO HARD TO
BECOME OUR GEMINI.

THEN, THERE IS
BUT ONE THING
TO DO...

SCENE SHIFT: OUT INTO THE SUNLIGHT, AND ACROSS TOWN TO THE WORLD-FAMED AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS (WELL, THERE WOULDN'T BE MUCH POINT IN SHIFTING TO THE BAXTER BUILDING, RIGHT?).

EXCUSE ME... I'M SERGEANT LINK, TO SEE THE AVENGERS.

OH, YES, I ANSWERED YOUR CALL EARLIER.

MY BUTTLING DUTIES CALL ME TO THE MARKET, SERGEANT, BUT GO RIGHT ON IN.

AND WHEN HE HAS...

THIS IS STRICTLY A COURTESY CALL, VISION, ABOUT CAPTAIN AMERICA BEING HELD FOR MURDER.*

THE COMMISSIONER WANTED ME TO ACT AS LIAISON BETWEEN OUR DEPARTMENT AND YOURSELVES, JUST AS I DO WITH SHIELD.

*NO TRUE BELIEVER YOU HAVEN'T MISSED SOMETHING, KEEP READING AND WE'LL FILL YOU IN ALONG THE WAY.-- SO HANG LOOSE.

THANK YOU, SERGEANT LINK. WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU HAVE?

THERE'S NOT MUCH-- UNNN!!

UNNNNNN!

IT--IT'S ANOTHER OF THOSE BLACK-OUT SPELLS I'VE BEEN HAVING!

WHAT IS IT, SERGEANT? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YEAH...YEAH! IT'S JUST--A SUDDEN HEADACHE. I GET 'EM SOMETIMES.

NO BIG DEAL.

BUT--DO YOU MIND IF I WALK AROUND A LITTLE WHILE WE TALK? IT'LL HELP EASE THE PAIN.

ODD...

...THE VIBRATIONS THIS ONE FEELS FROM THAT MAN... HAVE CHANGED. THIS ONE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND.

SURE, SARGE. I'LL GIVE YOU A MINI-GRAND TOUR!

SWORDS-MAN, MY LOVE... KEEP A WATCH UPON THE POLICE-MAN, PLEASE.

SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY WRONG!

TELEVISION HAS ALREADY INFORMED THE AVENGERS THAT THE AUTHORITIES KNOW NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT THE CAPTAIN AMERICA MURDER CASE, SO THEIR SUSPICIONS ARE NOT AROUSED WHEN SERGEANT LINK TELLS THEM NEXT TO NOTHING.



UNDEED, WITH THEIR CONCERN FOR ONE FRIEND TEMPORARILY COVERED, THEY SOON RETURN THEIR ATTENTION TO THE SCARLET WITCH'S CONTINUED BITTERNESS TOWARD HUMANITY.

AND IT IS THEN, WHEN ALL EYES SEEM TO BE LOCKED ON WANDA'S STIFF-BACKED FORM, THAT A MAN NAMED LINK MAKES HIS MOVE!



BUT HE HAS BEEN OVER-CONFIDENT!

SECRET
WEAPONS
SYSTEM



ALL RIGHT, COP--GET YOUR GRUBBY FINGERS OUT OF OUR MANUALS--

--OR I'LL CARVE YOU LIKE A THANKSGIVING TURKEY!

WHAT? ARE YOU CRAZY?



I KNOW YOU DON'T DIG FUZZ, BUT YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO HASSLE ME--

HEY! WATCH OUT! YOU'RE FALLING!

CAN'T-- CAN'T HELP--

SWORDSMAN!



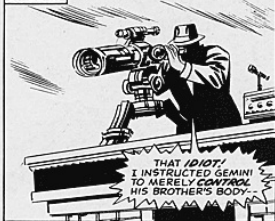
THE GOLDEN BLADE SNAPS ERRATICALLY THROUGH THE AIR-- AND THEN--

THAT COSTUME--

--IT'S GEMINI!



DON'T FLIP TOO FEVERISHLY PAST THAT PICTURE-WINDOW BACKDROP IN THE PREVIOUS PANEL, PILGRIM--FOR, ACROSS THE STREET...



--UNTIL I COULD DECIDE THE BEST COURSE FOR CAPTURING DAMIAN LINK!

NOW JOSHUA HAS MADE THE BAD SITUATION OF DAMIAN'S PRESENCE IN AVENGERS MANSION NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE WITH HIS RECKLESSNESS!



--AS TAURUS, SUPREME COMMANDER OF ZODIAC!



I MUST REMEMBER--

--TO ROUGH UP MY TALKIN' FOR 'EM, SINCE EVEN THEY DUNNO WHO I REALLY AM!

CALLIN' ZODIAC!
CALLIN' ZODIAC!

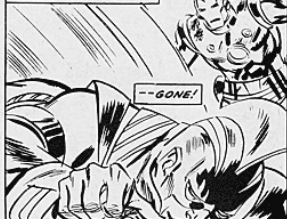
WHILE BACK INSIDE--
SWORDSMAN, THOU ART SURELY ILL! THY COLLAPSE--



--WAS...
NOTHIN'...
JUST THE...
HEAT...
SO...
HOT...

GRAB HIM!

BUT THE MYSTERIOUS MUSKETEER'S KNEES HAVE ALREADY TURNED TO PUDDING AGAIN, AND HE'S--



--GONE!

DROPPING SWIFTLY TO HIS SIDE, MANTIS TEARS AWAY HIS TUNIC!



THIS WOUND--FROM YOUR BATTLE IN BOLIVIA--

--IT IS INFECTED!

NEVER... TREATED... RIGHT...

*ISSUES # 231-233.--R

POLICE... TOOK ME TO JAIL... NOT HOSPITAL... BECAUSE THEY KNEW HE FROM OLD DAYS... AS... CRIMINAL...

THEY SENT... FOR DOCTOR... BUT BEFORE HE CAME... CAP ARRIVED... TO GATHER AVENGERS... SO WE COULD CONFRONT DEFENDERS...

COULDN'T TELL... DIDN'T WANT TO BE... SIDELINED... WHILE PROVING MYSELF... TO YOU...

HAD... TO KEEP... GOING...

SWORDSMAN-- THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THIS! NO MAN OOTH CALL THINE HONESTY INTO QUESTION ANY LONGER!



NO...? WHAT ABOUT... CAPTAIN AMERICA...?

WHY... IS IT... SO NOT...?

IT IS FEVER, MY LOVE. I WILL TEND TO YOUR HURT.

FUNNY... YOU SAY I'M... HERO... AND NOW... THEY CALL CAP... CROOK...

ALLOW ME TO CARRY HIM, MANTIS!



THIS ONE CAN MANAGE, THOR.

POOR MAN. I WISH CAP WERE HERE-- AND THE PANTHER HOME FROM WAKANDA -- SO THEY COULD TELL HIM THEY TRUST HIM, TOO.

HMMM... OUR TWO-FACED VISITOR IS COMING AROUND.

WHAT-- HAPPENED? WHERE'S MY POLICE UNIFORM? WHAT'S THIS MONKEY SUIT?



ARE YOU SAYING YOU HAVE NO MEMORY--

CLANG CLANG

THE INTRUDER ALARM!

AS IF WE NEEDED IT!

LOOK AT THE WALL!



NEXT: ZODIAC ATTACK!

WARLOCK

